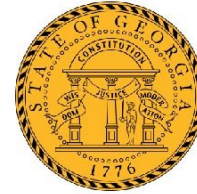


**2024
LEGISLATIVE
UPDATE**



STATE OF GEORGIA



Contractor License

Name

COMPANY NAME

License No

XX-00000-XX

Expiration

00/00/0000

SB 503 – General Contractor Licensing

- Extends grace period for company to replace qualifying agent from 120 to 180 days
- Changes terminology from “Residential and General Contractors” to Residential and Commercial General Contractors”
- Requires Board to meet every two months instead of six times a year
- Legislation Passed



HB – 1044

Raises Bid Threshold for State and
For Local Government

Current Law:

Requires state agencies, counties and municipalities to provide public notice and open procurement for public works construction projects over \$100,000

New Law:

Raises limit to \$250,000 so construction projects valued at less than \$250,000 do not have to be publicly procured

Legislation did not pass

HB 1228

QBS Selection for A/E Services



- Legislation would require counties and municipalities to follow the same Qualifications Based Selection Process followed by state agencies
- State QBS Process requires notice on Georgia Procurement Registry
- State Process requires review of Statements of Qualifications and Interviews of Shortlisted Firms
- Price is not a factor in Selection
- This legislation did not pass



HB-581 Limits Increases in Assessed Values for Homestead Exemption Property

Would restrict annual assessment increases on homesteaded property to the rate of inflation beginning on January 1, 2025

Would allow local governments to opt out by adopting a resolution by March 1, 2025 after advertising and conducting three public hearings

Signed by the Governor

Requires a Constitutional Amendment so voters would see referendum on ballot this fall



HB-1015 Income Tax Reduction

Reduces state income tax from current rate of 5.495% to 5.39% as of January 1, 2024.

Annual reductions of 0.10% in the tax rate are further proposed to commence on January 1, 2025, until the tax rate reaches 4.99%.

If any of three stipulated conditions occur—pertaining to the Governor's revenue estimates, the previous fiscal year's net revenue collection, or the Revenue Shortfall Reserve—the proposed annual reduction in the tax rate will be delayed by a year.

Passed both houses and signed by Governor

A photograph of a wooden desk. In the foreground, a bright green sticky note is placed on the desk, with the words "Child Tax Credit" written in black marker. To the right of the sticky note, a white marker with a black tip lies on a piece of white paper. In the background, several wooden cutouts of human figures are arranged in a line, holding hands. A portion of a white keyboard is visible in the top left corner.

Child Tax Credit

HB 1021

- Increases the child income tax deduction from \$3,000 to \$4,000
- Signed by Governor

HB 916

Amended FY 24 Budget

In FY 24, the General Assembly funded many construction projects with cash that would normally be bond funded. The amended budget added additional cash funded projects.

Total cash funding in the Amended FY 2024 for construction, equipment, and repairs totaled \$1.5 billion.

Amended FY 24 Budget added cash to many agencies, including the following projects:

- Additional \$436 Million for new State Prison in Washington County
- \$178 Million for new Dental School at Georgia Southern
- Additional \$37 Million for repairs at Atlanta Farmer's Market
- \$50 Million in matching funds for UGA Medical School
- \$135 Million for Corrections maintenance and repairs statewide



HB 915 FY25 Budget Highlights

- Funds to provide 4% cost of living adjustment for state employees. Not to exceed \$3,000.
- Funded \$866 Million in construction and equipment

- Technical College System of Georgia: Design and construction for trade-industry buildings renovation at Central Georgia Technical College, Macon, Bibb County. \$17,550,000
- Technical College System of Georgia: Design and construction for industrial technologies renovation at Georgia Northwestern Technical College, Rome, Floyd County. \$16,990,000
- Technical College System of Georgia: Design, construction, and equipment for Walton County Campus Renovations, Phase 1 at Athens Technical College, Monroe, Walton County. \$9,875,000
- Defense, Department of: Site improvements and renovations for the readiness centers, statewide. \$12,000,000
- Juvenile Justice, Department of: Construction of 48-bed facility expansion, Milledgeville, Baldwin County. \$52,000,000
- Regents, University System of Georgia Board of: Design and construct a campuswide renewal of HVAC and electrical systems, Gordon State College, Barnesville, Lamar County. \$4,000,000
- Regents, University System of Georgia Board of: Design and construct the replacement of two chillers at the 10th Street Chiller Plant, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Fulton County. \$5,000,000
- Regents, University System of Georgia Board of: Design and construction to upgrade the primary electrical distribution system, East Georgia State College, Swainsboro, Emanuel County. \$2,700,000

SB 395 – Prevent Opioid Overdose

- Bill authorizes anyone to carry and administer Narcan in schools
- Requires schools and government buildings to maintain a supply of Narcan
- Individuals who receive training and administer Narcan in good faith are immune from liability



HB 1010 – Parental Leave for State Employees

Increases paid
parental leave for
state employees
from 120 hours
to 240 hours

Eligible to take
leave for birth or
adoption of child



HB 1105 – Immigration Enforcement

- Requires local law enforcement to verify immigration status upon arrest and detain if requested by feds
- Requires local law enforcement to cooperate with Feds for immigration enforcement
- Requires local law enforcement to track and publish the nationalities of those incarcerated
- Requires local law enforcement to document communications with feds



SB 233 – School Vouchers



- Bill provides \$6,500 education savings accounts to students attending public schools that rank in bottom 25% for academic achievement
- Money can be spent on private school tuition, home schooling supplies, therapy, tutoring or even early college courses for high school students
- Eligible students are supposed to have attended an eligible public school for at least two consecutive semesters, or be about to enter kindergarten at an eligible public school
- Students from households with incomes of less than four times the federal poverty level would be prioritized for the scholarships
- Funding for program is limited to 1% of the \$14.1 billion that Georgia spends on its school funding formula. Lawmakers would appropriate money for the voucher separately, and not take it directly out of the formula



SB 344

- Creates a five-day sales tax holiday on all firearms, ammunition and other gun accessories — including safes
- Tax Holiday starts with the beginning of deer hunting season in October
- Passed both houses, waiting on Governor's signature

HB 1341

Designates white shrimp as the State's Official Crustacean

Passed both houses and is waiting on the Governor's signature





HB 1017 Georgia Squatter Reform Act

- Clarifies that law enforcement has jurisdiction over squatters
- Creates specific crime of squatting (instead of being charged with trespass)
- Gives magistrate judge jurisdiction over squatting
- Sets hearing date within 7 days if occupant claims rightful possession
- Passed both houses; awaiting Governor's signature

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